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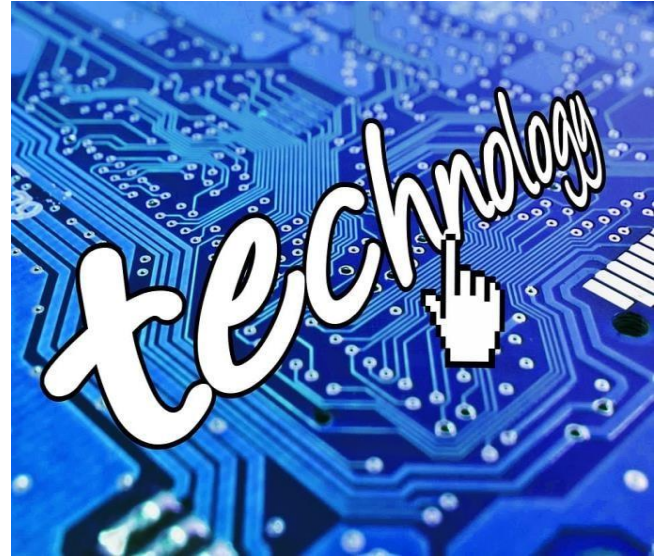
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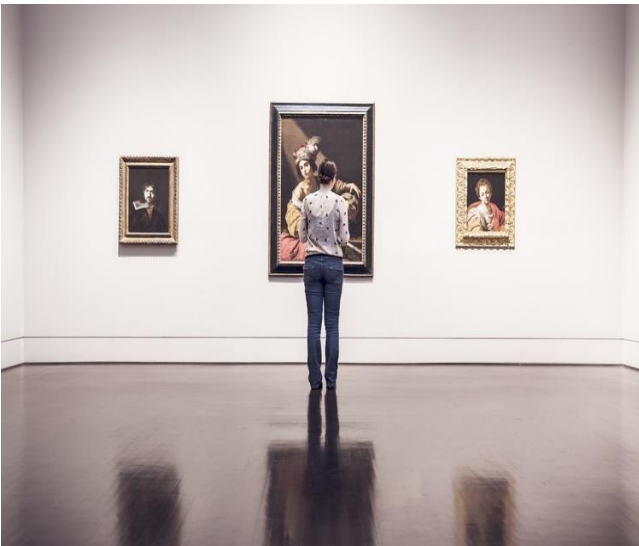
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SCIENCE

How plant ‘muscles’ fold up a mimosa leaf fast

(February 3, 2023)

Specially shaped cells work like motors to close mimosa leaflets like a book. A plant’s version of muscles does the lifting and pushing that shuts a *Mimosa pudica* plant leaf like a book when touched, perhaps as defense against danger. Now scientists are looking at how structural details of the musclelike cells enhance the plant's folding abilities.



Read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/plant-muscles-fold-mimosa-leaf>

A newfound ‘croakless’ frog may communicate via touch

(February 2, 2023)

The animal might use spines on its throat to recognize potential mates instead of calls. A newfound species of frog doesn’t ribbit. In fact, it doesn’t make any sound at all. Many frogs have unusual characteristics, from [turning translucent](#) to [being clumsy jumpers](#) (SN: 12/22/22; 6/15/22). The recently discovered amphibian lacks a voice. It joins a group of seven other voiceless frog species called spiny-throated reed frogs that reside in East Africa. **Instead of croaking, the spines on male frogs’ throats might help their female counterparts recognize potential mates via touch, sort of like braille, says conservation biologist Lucinda Lawson of the University of Cincinnati.**

Read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/frog-silent-tanzania-species>

Water is weird. A new type of ice could help us understand why

(February 2, 2023)

The unusual amorphous ice has a density close to that of liquid water. Ice cubes float in water because they're less dense than the liquid. But a newfound type of ice has a density [nearly equal to what's in your water glass](#), researchers report in the Feb. 3. If you could plop this ice in your cup without it melting immediately, it would bob around, neither floating nor sinking. The new ice is a special type called an amorphous ice. That means the water molecules within it aren't arranged in a neat pattern, as in normal, crystalline ice.

Read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/water-ice-amorphous-physics-chemistry>

50 years ago, scientists debated when humans first set foot in North America

(January 27, 2023)

Human footprints (shown) in modern-day New Mexico may be more than 20,000 years old. If so, that would offer some of the best evidence yet that people arrived in North America by the peak of the last ice age. The question of when humans first set foot in the Americas is still hotly debated. Recent fossil and archaeological evidence suggests the first inhabitants arrived tens of thousands of years ago. For instance, humanlike [footprints in New Mexico date to about 20,000 years ago](#). And stone tools found in a cave [hint that humans resided in Mexico roughly 30,000 years ago](#).



Read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/50-years-ago-debate-humans-earliestarrival-north-america>

It's possible to reach net-zero carbon emissions.

(January 27, 2023)

Cutting carbon dioxide emissions to curb climate change is possible but not easy. Curbing climate change means getting more electricity from renewable sources, such as wind power. Patricia Hidalgo-Gonzalez saw the future of energy on a broiling-hot day last September. An email alert hit her inbox from the San Diego Gas & Electric Company. "Extreme heat straining the grid," read the message, which was also pinged as a text to 27 million people. "Save energy to help avoid power interruptions."



Read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/net-zero-carbon-emissions-climate>



ARTS

Celebrating the colours and strokes of India and Nepal in Hyderabad

(January 26, 2023)

For six days — from January 19 to 24 — the ground floor at the State Art Gallery in Hyderabad turned into a studio space for 16 artists from across the country and Nepal as they transformed their thought processes on canvases. The resultant 32 paintings were created as part of this Indo-Nepal Art Symposium. The paintings that reflect the environment are currently on display at the gallery till February 2.



Credit by: Special arrangement

Read more at: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/indo-nepal-symposium-celebrating-the-coloursand-strokes-of-india-and-nepal-in-hyderabad/article66431139.ece>

Sip and Paint’ events are the latest trend in Visakhapatnam

(February 02, 2023)

It’s a balmy winter Wednesday morning in Visakhapatnam. At a popular restaurant in the heart of the city, people start coming in, greeting each other as they settle towards a table with art paper and paintbrushes and water colours. “So today we are all going to bring out the artist in us! Are you ready for it?” hollers a voice pointing towards a floral sketch. This isn’t your typical art class. The idea is pretty straightforward - sip a mocktail and paint your picture, supervised by an artist who gives step-by-step instructions to complete an artwork. ‘Sip and Paint’ events are the latest trend in Visakhapatnam. The city-based group Kaleidoscope recently conducted its third event which was hosted by artist Anita Rao.

Read more at: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/sip-and-paint-events-are-the-latest-trend-in-visakhapatnam/article66462407.ece>

A group show of art in Hyderabad focuses on sociopolitical realities

(January 31, 2023)

With as many as 22 artists showcasing more than 40 works, the exhibition 'Whose Memory? Whose Archive? An Empirical Survey', curated by Om Soorya has an interesting variety of visual and creative engagement. "I didn't want to give any theme; I want the artists to express in their own unique way," says Om, adding, "The works are empirical; a long process has gone into it like a farmer who toils in the land but has to wait for results." The exhibition originated from a discussion over the widening gap between empirical and theoretical-based practices and is an attempt to blur the line between them to make it inclusive.'



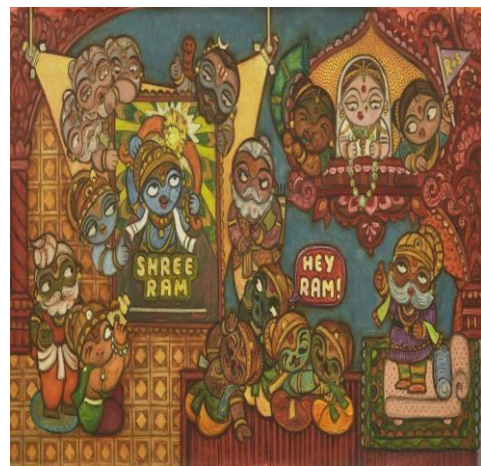
Credit: Special arrangement Read

more at: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/a-group-show-of-art-at-kalakriti-art-gallery-in-hyderabad-highlights-the-socio-political-realities/article66449443.ece>

How artist Vishakha Hardikar paints vibrant stories, from grandmothers' tales to superhero Ram

(January 27, 2023)

Art need not necessarily be serious or obscure. A work of art can be entertaining and engaging, a conversation starter. Imagine Sita's *swayamvar* depicted in an artistic style that borrows from traditional folklore and incorporates elements of pop culture and comics. The kings who could not lift and string the Shiva Dhanush go into a chorus of 'Hey Ram' in resignation, while King Janaka and Sita exchange a thumbs up. *Katha Kathan*, an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Mumbai-based artist, Visakha Hardikar, displayed at the State Gallery of Art, Hyderabad, has a hint of playfulness that makes the 100-plus artworks a joy to view.



Read more at; <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/vishakha-hardikar-artworks-onview-in-hyderabad-showcases-vibrant-stories/article66416837.ece>



TECHNOLOGY

Layoffs in 2023: a list of Indian startups & tech companies that have cut jobs

(February 3, 2023)

A slowdown in consumer demand post the Covid-19 years and uncertain macroeconomic conditions triggered mass layoffs across major US tech firms over the past few months. This included massive retrenchment at Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, and Alphabet, among many others. Indian startups, too, have been impacted over the last six months as they struggle to raise funds in a tough global environment. We reported on December 30 that fund-starved startups fired nearly 18,000 in 2022, according . According to data from Tracxn, the subdued startup fundraising activity continued in the first month of the new year with Indian startups raising \$1.18 billion in January, down 75% compared to the same period last year.

Read more at: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/layoffs-in-2023-a-list-of-indian-startups-tech-companies-that-have-cut-jobs/articleshow/97601464.cms>

OpenAI launches ChatGPT Plus: check price, features, details of the disruptive AI chatbot

(February 1, 2023)

OpenAI has trained ChatGPT on billions of words and a ton of data from the web. OpenAi, which developed ChatGPT, has now announced the launch of the paid version of its viral AI chatbot. The chatbot has forced big tech firms to get their act together with respect to advancements in the AI space. Google, the world's largest search engine, will make artificial intelligence-based large language models like LaMDA available "in the coming weeks and months", according to chief executive officer Sundar Pichai.

Read more at:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/openai-launches-chatgpt-plus-googlesays-its-launching-a-rival-all-you-need-to-know-about-disruptive-ai-chatbots/articleshow/97571086.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Wikipedia blocked in Pakistan over 'blasphemous' content

(February 04, 2023)

The popular free online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, has been reportedly blocked in Pakistan over sacrilegious content on the site by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), according to a Bloomberg report. The PTA degraded Wikipedia's services first after they ordered the site to remove offensive content within 48 hours. Failure to remove the content from the website, it was banned from the country. "The action was taken because some of the content is still available on Wikipedia after the expiry of a 48-hour deadline," PTA spokesperson Malahat Obaid, told Bloomberg.



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Read more at: <https://www.businesstoday.in/technology/news/story/wikipedia-blocked-inpakistan-368914-2023-02-04>

Hyderabad gears up for India's first Formula E race;

(January 31, 2023)

India is all set for its first Formula E race. The racetrack is located around Hussainsagar in Hyderabad, Telangana. The state government is expecting over 20,000 fans from around the world to attend the event on February 11. 11 teams will be racing on the street circuit of Hyderabad - Avalanche Andretti Formula E, TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team, NEOM McLaren Formula E Team, Envision Racing, Jaguar TCS Racing, Mahindra Racing, DS Penske, Nissan Formula E Team, Maserati MSG Racing, NIO 333 Racing, and ABT CUPRA Formula E Team. The tickets for the event are currently available online and range from Rs 100 to Rs 1,25,000.



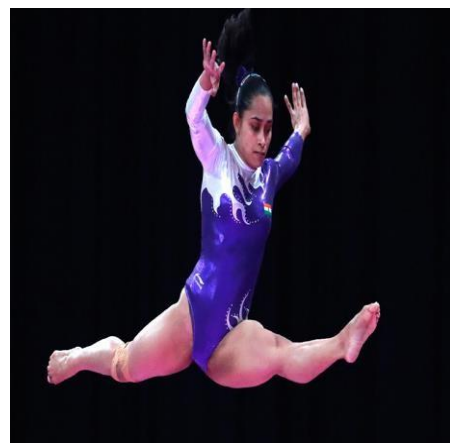
Read more at: <https://www.businesstoday.in/technology/news/story/hyderabad-india-first-formulae-race-track-details-tickets-and-more-368807-2023-02-03>



SPORTS

Dipa Karmakar gets 21-month ban after failing dope test (February 04, 2023)

Star gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been handed a 21-month ban for failing a dope test conducted by the International Testing Agency, contrary to claims made by Indian officials that her "suspension" last year was not related to doping offence. Karmakar's dope sample collected out-of-competition by the ITA, an independent organisation that manages the anti-doping programme of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), was found to contain Higenamine, which is a prohibited substance under World AntiDoping Agency Code. Her ban period will, however, end on July 10 this year as it was counted from the day (October 11, 2011) the sample was collected.



Read more at: <https://www.theweek.in/news/sports/2023/02/04/dipa-karmakar-gets-21month-ban-after-failing-dope-test.html>

ISL: East Bengal beat Kerala Blasters 1-0

(February 03, 2023)

Brazilian striker Cleiton Silva celebrated his 36th birthday by scoring the winner for East Bengal against Kerala Blasters in the Indian Super League here on Friday. Silva scored the solitary goal in the 77th minute. Rahman was sent off. Kerala Blasters missed a chance to increase their lead in the 77th minute. The hosts managed to hold on to the narrow lead after Mobaover fourth-placed ATK Mohun Bagan. The Blasters remain third in the points table with 28 points from 16 matches. East Bengal remain ninth with 15 points from 16 matches.

Read more at: <https://www.theweek.in/news/sports/2023/02/03/isl-east-bengal-beat-keralablasters-1-0.html>

IOC details Russia stance for Olympics, cites human rights

(February 03, 2023)

The IOC stepped up efforts to explain its position on trying to help Russian athletes qualify for next year's Paris Olympics amid a backlash from Ukraine and its allies. The International Olympic Committee's move last week to map a pathway to Paris for athletes from Russia and Belarus who have not actively supported the war provoked strong objections from Ukraine, which wants to see those countries remain banned from most international sports. Publishing a series of explanations and rebuttals to its critics on Thursday, the Olympic body also responded to Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy's invitation for his IOC counterpart Thomas Bach to return and see the ruined city of Bakhmut.

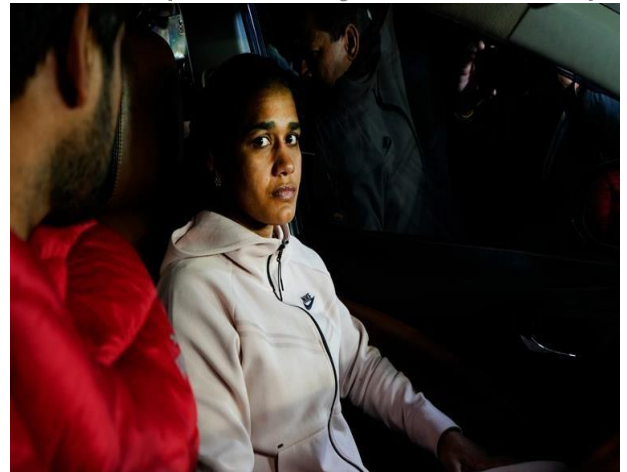


Read more at: <https://www.theweek.in/news/sports/2023/02/03/ioc-details-russiastance-for-olympics-cites-human-rights.html>

Wrestling row: Babita Phogat joins oversight committee

(January 31, 2023)

Commonwealth Games gold medallist wrestler Babita Phogat has joined the oversight committee formed to probe the various allegations against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Formed by the Sports Ministry, the oversight committee is carrying out an enquiry into the allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment, intimidation, financial irregularities and administrative lapses of the WFI and its chief. The allegations were levelled by prominent grapplers such as Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya.



Credit by: Babita Phogat Read more at: <https://www.theweek.in/news/sports/2023/01/31/wrestling-row-babita-phogat-joins-oversightcommittee.html>